

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph starting with "Now referring to FIGURE 7" on page 15, lines 5-19 with the following amended paragraph:

Now referring to FIGURE 7, a flow chart illustrates steps involved in a preferred process of the layer structure information updating process 90 according to the current invention. The layer rule 42 and the above specified member from the layer structure information management unit 15 are inputted to the layer structure information updating process 90. In a step 901, the layer structure information update unit 16 receives an instruction for layer information generation for the above specified member and examines the layer rule 42. If the layer information is not to be generated from the member name, the preferred process terminates. On the other hand, if the layer information is not to be generated from the member name, the layer structure information update unit 16 branches to a step 902. In the step 902, layer structure definition data is generated as the layer information by performing character row conversion according to the layer rule 42. Based upon the layer structure definition data, after the layer information of the above specified member is registered at the layer structure information 43, the above generated layer information is returned to the layer structure information management unit 15. The preferred process then terminates.